

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Decision Record - Memorandum
Pistol Draw Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS)
November 2015**

PREPARING OFFICE

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Worland Field Office



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Chapter 1. Pistol Draw Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS)

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DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2015-0050-CX

1.1. DECISION

It is my decision to approve the Pistol Draw Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS) placement described as Proposed Action of DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2015-0050-CX. A permanent, stationary Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS) will be installed in T45N R92W S20 to provide precipitation and weather data. The weather data collected at the station will be remotely sensed via satellite, available for real-time access via the Internet at MesoWest (<http://raws.wrh.noaa.gov>) and stored in perpetuity. The weather data will be used for: predicting or estimating components of wildland fire severity and behavior, prescribed fire planning and behavior, and strategic seasonal and multi-year resource allocations; investigations to supply evidence of weather at the times of unauthorized-fires; assessment of weather impacts to wildlife and vegetation changes and response to treatments; and sharing with local fire cooperators (i.e., Washakie and Hot Springs County Fire Districts), the public, and entities and institutions that do climatological analyses and weather research.

Installation of a RAWS TriLeg tower on 10FT X 10FT ground area, with a 20 FT aerial mast, surrounded by an enclosure fence 16FT X 16FT of buck and pole materials. The tower provides a solid frame to mount sensors and other equipment. The feet can be anchored with rocks piled on top of the feet or with metal stakes. Anchored to the ground, it is able to withstand sustained 125 mph (201 km/h) winds without requiring setting in a concrete base.

1.1.1. Mitigation and Monitoring:

To assure compliance with the approved action, the project will be monitored during regularly scheduled field inspections.

1.2. PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CONSISTENCY

This plan has been reviewed to determine if the proposed action conforms to the land use plan as required by 43 CFR 1610.5. The proposed action conforms to the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan for the Worland Field Office, dated September 21, 2015. The decisions in the Worland Resource Management Plan (WRMP) provide general management direction and allocation of uses and resources on the public lands in the area.

WRMP/ROD record numbers

3003, Base the response to wildfires consistent with objectives and the cost/benefits of the resources at risk. For Wildland Fire Management, the protection of human life is the single, overriding priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property, and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be done on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection.

3007, Maintain and implement FMP consistent with this RMP to address fire management on a landscape scale. Under the appropriate environmental conditions the use of unplanned ignitions for resource benefit and prescribed fire to meet resource management objective is allowed in the entire planning area.

3008, Suppress fires threatening Greater Sage-Grouse habitats and crucial winter wildlife habitat within Wyoming big sagebrush communities. Where fire would be utilized to meet resource objectives, work closely with resource specialists to protect and improve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.

3010, Cooperate with other agencies and landowners to conduct landscape treatments resulting in enhanced fuels management and/or restoration of fire adapted ecosystems.

3013, Reduce fuels in the wildland urban interface.

3014, Response to wildfire may vary from full suppression in areas where fire is undesirable, to monitoring fire behavior in areas where fire can be used as a management tool.

3015, Utilize wildland fires (wildfires managed for resource benefit and prescribed fires) and other vegetation treatments to restore fire-adapted ecosystems, reduce hazardous fuels, and accomplish resource management objectives.

1.3. RATIONALE FOR DECISION

Weather and precipitation data for this portion of the WFO is necessary to provide for fire fighter and public safety, assessment and monitoring of Wyoming big sagebrush communities and Wyoming big sagebrush obligate wildlife habitat, livestock grazing opportunities, and data sharing with cooperating agencies and organizations.

1.4. PROTEST AND APPEAL OPPORTUNITIES

This wildfire management decision is issued under 43 CFR 4190.1 and is effective immediately. The BLM has made the determination that vegetation, soil, or other resources on the public lands are at risk of wildfire due to drought, fuels buildup, or other reasons, or at immediate risk of erosion or other damage due to wildfire. Thus, notwithstanding the provisions of 43 CFR 4.21(a) (1), filing a notice of appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 does not automatically suspend the effect of the decision. The Interior Board of Land Appeals must decide an appeal of this decision within 60 days after all pleadings have been filed, and within 180 days after the appeal was filed. (43 CFR 4.416)

Administration Review or Appeal Procedures

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, parties who are adversely affected and believe it is incorrect have the right to appeal to the Department of the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with regulations at 43 CFR 4.4. Procedural information on "Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals" can be obtained at the BLM, Worland Field Office, Worland, Wyoming. An appeal should be in writing and specify the reasons, clearly and concisely, as to why the decision is in error. A copy of the Statement of Reasons must also be supplied to this office. Also within 30 days of receipt of the decision, appellants have a right to file a petition for a stay (suspension) of the decision together with an appeal, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 4.21. The appellant has the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

/s/Michael Phillips	November 16, 2015
Worland Field Office Manager	Date